

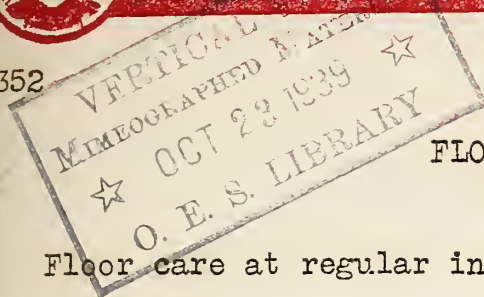
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FLOOR SEALS ARE NEW TYPE OF FLOOR FINISH

Floor care at regular intervals is one of the heavier tasks confronting the homemaker. Shellac and varnish finishes are the most common kinds, and, if well-waxed, the floors so finished will be easy to keep clean with a dry mop. Unless the coating of wax is kept very thin, however, such floors will be slippery, warns

_____, _____, _____
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There is a new kind of finish known as "floor seal," which keeps floors well protected at all times, with a minimum of slipperiness. It gives a moderately lustrous finish and requires little maintenance except at house-cleaning time. With floor seals it is possible to clean and patch worn spots without the trouble of moving all furniture out of the room and keeping the room out of service for a day or more.

Floor seals are thin varnishes or bodied drying oils, used in place of linseed or other unbodied oils. An unbodied oil such as raw or refined linseed, soybean, tung, or perilla oil is one that has not been heated or treated chemically to increase its viscosity. The floor seals penetrate less deeply than the unbodied oils but more deeply than ordinary floor varnishes. They saturate a surface layer of the floor and are embedded in the wood rather than coated over it.

The floors in very old houses, _____ recalls, commonly were finished with repeated applications of hot linseed oil. Each application was buffed by hand. When the surface was saturated with oil it was waxed and maintained by waxing. This laborious finish was durable, did not show scratches, and could be patched at places of maximum wear. But it fell into disrepute as floor oils were increasingly adulterated with nondrying mineral oils. Varnish and shellac finishes then became more popular.

